A

SERMON

On Occasion of the

DEATH

Of the Late REVEREND

Mr. William Bushnell,

PREACHED IN

MAID-LANE in Southwark, MAY 27, 1744.

By . HUGHES, D. D.

Bleffed is that servant, whom his Lord, when he cometh, shall find so doing. Matt. xxiv. 46.

Published at the earnest Desire of many FRIENDS.

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M. Margrave?

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Go thou thy way, till the end be; for thou shalt rest, and stand in thy lot at the end of the days.

prophecy; and must be understood, as Go D's dismissing him
from any further service in this
world: he had been imployed and honoured by God as his prophet, is expressly styled
a man greatly beloved: but God had answered all the purposes, he intended by
Daniel's ministry, and therefore he discharges him; Go thou thy way.

A discovery had been made to Daniel of great troubles and persecutions, which in succeeding ages the church and people of God would meet with: but at the beginning of this chapter a brighter scene is opened; when Christ Jesus, the prince of the kings of the earth, the king of kings, and lord of lords shall appear in his glory, like himself, to take vengeance on his enemies, and to reward his faithful servants.

A 2

THIS

4 Chap. x. 11, 19.

THIS is mentioned by way of comfort: and is without dispute a noble cordial, to keep good men from fainting under their trials and fufferings :- but when they hear of terrible diffress coming, 'tis natural to enquire, bow long it will continue? and subat the end will be? Accordingly these two questions are here proposed with respect to the troubles that the church of God would 'ere long be exercised with: - the former question is asked by one of the two angels, who are here introduced, as attending upon Christ the great angel of the covenant, How long shall it be to the end of these wonders ? Daniel heard the answer, but understood not, i. e. he did not understand the meaning of the time, times and an balf, so clearly and distinctly as he could have wished; - however, he contents himself with what he had heard, concluding, no doubt, but the rest which he understood not, was a mystery not to be as yet more clearly revealed; and therefore he does not repeat the question, When these wonders would be ended: - but being defirous to get all the light about them, that he might be admitted to, he in his turn directs himself to Christ, and humbly asks, O my Lord, what shall be the end of thefe things ? When we observe the condition of God's church in the world, the decays of piety, the increase and spread of infidelity

infidelity and profaneness, the noisy and triumphing boafts of wicked men, it is a great concern to all truly good fouls, all who have the interest of GoD and religion really at heart, what will become of the ark; and in their most ferious hours they are often thinking, what the end of these things will be? Thus Daniel enquires here; nor do we find he gave offence. Christ readily answers him; and in the answer, (besides what is fuggested for Daniel's further satisfaction, in reference to the time) we may observe two general things, with which Daniel is difmiffed, and was no doubt fatisfied; for they are fufficient to fatisfy every good man, let his thoughts be ever fo much perplexed and disturbed about the state of religion in his days: namely,

1. That tho' as long as the world continues, there will be a mixture of good and bad men, and religion will fometimes be at a very low ebb, yet God will take care of his own interest, he will have in every age a feed to serve bim, and all shall be well at last; and at the end of time, the conduct of providence shall be fully disclosed, and the fitness of all God's measures shall be represented in a most convincing light; till which time we must be content to wait, for the words are now closed and sealed up: We know but in part at present, and indeed but a little

a little part of God's ways can we expect to attain the knowledge of in this world; let us chearfully refer the full discovery to the end of time; what God does we know not now, but we shall know bereafter.

2. LET Daniel go his way, and be pleased with his own happiness, that is coming on, and shall be made complete. " Go " thou thy way, &cc. q. d. Be contented " Daniel with what discoveries have been " made to thee with reference to the " future condition of God's church and " interest in the world; nor be distressed " about what may come hereafter; - but go " thou thy way, take leave of the world, I have " no further service for thee in this state of " trial; go thy way now, enter into rest; " for thou shalt rest, such a state remains for thee; and at the end of the days, the final " confummation of all things, thou shalt " fland in thy lot, that lot and portion, and " inheritance, which is marked out, pro-" vided, promised, secured, and reserved " in the future state of immortality, for all "Gon's faithful fervants, where they shall " appear in glory fuitable to their dignity " and character, shall shine as the brightness of the firmament, and as the stars for ever and ever.*

The words thus introduced and explained, appear a proper subject for our present meditation, and are very suitable to the sad solemnity of this day; as they may help to administer comfort to this mourning assembly, under the affecting breach which providence has made upon us, by the removal of a pious christian, an excellent preacher, your faithful pastor, and my dear brother and collegue in the ministry: a breach, which I fear will not soon be repaired; but—the residue of the spirit is with GOD—and to him must we look.

Ho w did I hope, that for many years you would have enjoyed the faithful labours of good Mr. Bushnell; have had the advantage of his earnest prayers, and heart-fearching fermons, his kind intreaties, his affectionate admonitions, and his inftructive example! what a bleffing might this have been to you! how many hereby might have been greatly forwarded in the way to heaven! and how defirous was he himfelf to have been thus nieful! what a hearty concern had he for the interest of religion, and the profperity of precious fouls! and with what zeal would he willingly have laid out his strength, and been spent in this service! had Gob seen fit to have continued him in a full capacity for it: But providence has determined otherwise - God has given him a discharge from

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from his labours, and faid, " Go thou thy " way, take thy rest, and be for ever happy:" Bleffed foul, we congratulate thy escape from a world of forrow and fin, tho' we cannot but lament our own loss: a grievous loss indeed, which requires strong consolations to support under it. Let us see what comfort we may derive from the text; there is a great deal couched in a narrow compais; and much instruction and counsel also may be extracted out of it; Go thou thy way, till the end be; for thou shalt rest, and stand in thy lot at the end of the days.

THE words give foundation for the fol-

lowing propositions, viz.

I. WHEN good men leave this world, it is by the particular direction of GoD; it is he, who fays to each of them, Go

thou thy way.

II. DEATH to good men is not their extinction nor destruction; they go away only till the end be: they shall be forthcoming again at the call of Gop hereafter.

III. Go p defigns the advantage of his fervants, when he removes them out of the world; he fends them into a flate

of reft.

IV. THERE is a particular lot, in which good men shall fland at last, at the end of the days.

and then close with a suitable application.

PROP. I. When good men leave this world, it is by the express direction of God; it is he, who says to each of them, Go thou thy way.

The great God is the supreme Lord of life and death; he kills and he makes alive; we are all his creatures, and he sends us into the world at what point of time he pleases; he appoints us our work and business, while we live; and he determines the measure of our days, and puts a period to our lives whenever he sees sit. We are immortal, till God bids us die; but when the sentence is gone forth, we soon give up the ghost; death will execute its commission, nor can any thing obstruct it.

It is true indeed, that all men, both good and bad, die at the command of Gon; he fends them away when he pleases: and this consideration ought to have great weight with the wicked, and make them endeavour to be upon good terms with the supreme being, in whose hands their breath is, and whose are all their ways.

Bur I have chosen in the proposition to mention only good men; because I fully believe, that the God, by a general providence manages, governs, and directs all the B

affairs of this lower world; yet there is a special and particular providence, which watches over the concerns of good men, and disposes all in such a manner as will most effectually secure their happiness. I doubt not, but the means, the time, the place, and all the other circumstances relating to their death, are in a peculiar manner over-ruled and adjusted, so as may be most favourable to their highest, their eternal interests. They die at that very time, and by those very means, which their heavenly father judges the best and most proper.

In consequence of this it follows, that they live as long as God has any work for them to do here; and their work being done, tis fit their time should be ended. - They live, till by divine grace they are ripe for heaven; and what a pity then, that they should be longer kept out of it! - they die therefore agreeably to their own defires, and GoD does but gratify them in the remove: their work being done, they fee nothing here worth living for, nor would they, upon any account, live uselessly, or as mere cumberers of the ground; - and having good hope thro' grace of a better world, they wish to be gone; and fo upon both accounts they can adopt the words of good old Simeon, and in his language direct a prayer to Go D, Lord, now lettest thou thy servant depart in peace b.

I MUST

Luke ii. 29. 25 .v.m.C

I MUST just remark, before I leave this head;—that the most useful men are not necessary to God; he can carry on his work without them; he can lay them by without any detriment to his interest, and will take care of his own cause, when they are sleeping in the dust.

PROP. II. Death to good men is not their extinction, nor destruction; they do not cease to be; they are only gone away till the end be; they will be forth-coming again at the call of God hereaster.

It is indeed a very folemn and awful change they undergo by death: who can imagine less, when body and soul, that fond couple, are to be parted, the vital cord to be broken, and they to remain for a while in a separate state, the dust to return to the earth as it was, and the spirit unto GOD who gave it c.

But it is only a change; they are not annihilated, they are not lost, they are not perished for ever, they will be heard of again: neither foul nor body are for ever extinguished.

THE immortality of the foul was an article of the Pagan creed; and some of the philosophers have expressed, in a very sublime and exalted manner, their hopes of bliss in the next state of existence, when they should reach the seats of the blessed. Cicero and B 2 Seneca,

e Eccl. xil. 7.

Seneca, and others, fometimes speak upon this head like Christians; rather than like Heathens: I am sure however, they speak to the shame and reproach of Christians; who have had stronger evidences and clearer notices of the state of the blessed after death, than they were ever favoured with: life and immortality are brought to light thro' the gospel.

A N D as to the body, tho' that really dies, and is diffolved, yet it shall rife again, and be forth-coming at the end. This is a doctrine of pure revelation, which natural reason did not discover. It was so novel a doctrine, and so unthought of, that when Paul preached it at Athens, the great feat of learning at that day, several Epicurean and Stoick philofophers mocked him, and others thought him to be a fetter forth of strange Gods, But the gospel has brought it to light; given the first notice of it; and it is there fo evidently afferted, that the certainty of it is unquestionable, tho' the manner and circumstances are beyond the present reach of our capacities.

This then is really the true notion of death — Soul and body parted for a while—the foul continues to live in a separate state, in 'Adns, the invisible world:—the body dies, is laid in a grave, and sees corruption, but shall

^{• 2} Tim. i. 10. • Acts xvii.

shall live again; it shall sleep a while in the dust of the earth: but this will not be an eternal sleep, it shall awake, and revive, and be restored to its old companion: the hour is coming, in the which all that are in their graves shall bear the voice of the Son of GOD, and shall come forth. The resurrection of all is certain; the consequences of it different, according to their different characters; so it sollows, they that have done good, unto the resurrection of life; and they that have done evil, unto the resurrection of damnation.

This is matter of joy to the godly, and equally the ground of terror to all impenitent

finners.

HAPPY were it for the wicked, if death would put an everlasting period to their existence, and they were to be heard of no more; all their hopes and views are terminated on this world, nor can they expect any thing but the extremest misery in the next state; and therefore having made it their interest that there should not be a world to come, they do all they can to argue themselves into a persuasion that there really will not.

WHEREAS a future state is the earnest wish, the joyful hope, the firm belief, and the pleasing expectation of good men. They yield to death, as the appointed way to another world; and they walk thro' the dark

14 The Saint dismis'd from earth,

passage without fear, being under divine conduct, and confidering it as leading to a bright and glorious world. The thoughts of death, as an entire extinction of the hu-man nature, must needs be very shocking and terrible, to those who are apprised of the noble faculties of their fouls, and know what exalted fervices and enjoyments they are capable of. But when men have lived like beafts, nay, funk themselves below the level of beafts, no wonder they would be content to die as the beafts that perifh, to go with them into a state of non-existence. -But let the wicked know that this will not be the case; they must be continued for ever, to reap the fad effects of their chosen folly, in a state, where they shall seek death, but shall not find it, and shall defire to die, and death shall flee from them 8.

PROP. III. The great G o D always defigns the advantage of his faithful fervants, whenever he removes them out of this world. Go thou thy way, fays he to Daniel, for thou shalt reft.

I T is not, because G o D would dismiss them from his service; it is not a token of his displeasure, because they have served him no better: no, Sirs; God can and will make savourable

favourable allowances for the imperfections and infirmities of his fervants; he knows their frame, their temptations, fnares and difficulties, and he is far from being a hard master; it is his known character, that he bath pleasure in the prosperity of his servants. -And this is an evident instance of it; that, when they have done all the fervice he appointed them, he fends them off the stage of this life, that they may be at rest. Go thou thy way, for thou Shalt rest; q. d. " Thou " hast been my faithful servant, and hast " carefully discharged thy duty, and exe-" cuted the commission I gave thee: Go thou thy way, thou hast borne the beat and " burden of the day, thou haft had enough " of this troublesome state, it is high time " that thou shouldst be relieved, bid the " world good night, and go to rest; I now " dismiss thee from any further attendance " upon my service on earth, and from all " the labours and perplexities of this mortal " ftate: Go thy way, take leave of this world " for ever: I call thee now to thy reward, " thou shalt rest; there is a rest remaining " for my people, enter thou into it, go take possession of it; it is reserved and laid up " for my friends; of this number art thou; " my will and pleasure therefore is, that " instead of struggling any longer with the " forrows

of fate, thou shouldst without any further delay go to reft, and enter into thy maf-

ter's joy.

How friendly does death appear in this view! and this indeed is the real flate of the case with reference to all good men; they die in order to be at rest. The facred records are fufficiently explicite upon this head: and an express voice from heaven, which St. John himself heard, loudly proclaim'd the blessed truth; I beard a voice from heaven, faying unto me, write; "Bleffed are the dead, which die in the Lord from benceforth;" the spitit of truth confirmed the declaration, and fuggefts the circumstances of their bleffednels; yea faith the spirit, that they may rest from their labours, and their works do follow them. And a great variety of scriptures re-present the happy circumstances of good men immediately upon their death; beyond all dispute proving, that to die is their gain; they change circumstances to their inexpressible advantage. The term in the text [Reft] frequently used in the sacred writings upon this occasion, is very expressive and emphatical; and in a vigorous figure illustrates the happiness of good men in the next state. good was godgwin to be REST

REST includes in it a full deliverance from every thing that can occasion uneafiness, an entire cessation from all labour and also a refreshing ourselves after our labours and troubles are all over. - And both notions of rest are applicable to the case of departed faints. . I for at a gray weed the

I. THEY entirely cease from all labours, and are delivered from every diffreffing " chris, wer it can afford, what the livenders,

THE present world is full of troubles and perplexities; we are, like a thip upon the ocean, in a very unfettled condition, toffed about at the mercy of the winds and the waves: and tho' at some few seasons the sea is calm, and we fail smoothly and pleasantly; yet fuddenly the winds blow, the waves rise and swell, failing becomes dangerous, and the calm is shifted again into a terrible storm. There is no fuch thing as fettled reft on earth; whoever looks for one, will be greatly mistaken: Go D never designed this world for fuch a state, nor will any man find it fo. Like the dove that was fent out of Nogh's ark, we may wander up and down, but shall not find reft for the foles of our feet : here is not the faint's reft, but there is one remaining to them *; it is laid

Heb. iv. o. uphrasorA ? oo iii. 17.

the tertainty of their attaining to said this they enter this at death, both as to say and four enter the savelence guidents a cite bas

THE bodies of good men that be fully at fest, when they die. It is faid of the grave, there the weary are at rest 1: and as one pl ferves, " It is the prerogative and commendation of the grave, that the it be a dark, " earth, yet it can afford, what the grandeft, " most magnificent palace upon the earth borgandur fulcitude and reference It Is a felt from all the labours and farigues, The Bains and Torrows, the burdens and trials of the prelentlife. What a deal of cate and Tabour as required to provide for the Sepport of the Body, will workers the crazy carthon tabernacle in tolerable repair; and after all bifi care, what difeates and painful diforders, What weakness and decays are they liable There is the Besimales of the for

Who Eve kotis acquainted with the fine contexture of the human body, what a valiety of nice parts and organs it is composed of, fibres, helves, veins, muscles, arteries, finews, 32, all of them exquilitely curious, and liable to different differences are in pain, and licken and die; as he will be furprised to find health

* Heb. iv. 9: LENGTAL Job iii. 17.

health and case, strength and life so long continued to so many.

Our life contains a thouland forings,

-ne And dies if one be gone le era nem bor

Strange! that a barp of a thousand strings
Should keep in tune so long! WATTS.

Now these diseases and pains, tho they may not immediately work death, yet they how-ever are very grievous and troublefome, they abate the comfort and ufefulness of Hie, na ture is oppressed and groans under them; but death delivers from all—the good man dies, and there is an end of all his pains and troubles, his cares and his forrows for ever no paroxylms of gour or frone, no fickness nor loathsome qualms, no burning fever, nor haking ague, nor one of the numerous tribe of maladies and diforders, to which the Hull man nature is subject, shall afflict him more his body is laid to fleep, and takes its rest in the quiet chambers of death, in a bed of duft. foftened and perfumed by having once lodged the facred body of the bleffed Redeemer, Jefus, the Son of the mon high Gop This indeed is common both to good and bad men; the grave is a refling place to each ralike: but the difference of their condition will be vifible to all the world at the great rifing day, lom from all . 22 but there is a fee-

when they shall all awake out of fleep: and it does indeed commence in part at death: - For while the body flumbers in the grave and rests quietly there, the fouls of good men are also at rest in GoD: they enter upon their rest immediately; they go to Christ in paradife, are carried by angels into Abraham's bosom; and are delivered from every thing that administred occasion of grief or diffress to them in this world: their fins are ended with their lives; not an evil thought shall molest them more; the body of fin is dropt; their enemies all vanquished, and fixed at an eternal distance from them. They shall no more complain of temptations, fnares, dangers, infirmities or fins; they shall no more cry out, O wretched men that we are, who shall deliver us from this body of death! no; now their fouls are escaped, they find themselves enlarged, at full liberty, and breathe the pure air of heaven; - quite the reverse of this the case of wicked souls departed; they are dragged down to the regions of the damned, and in bell they lift up their voice, being in torments.

II. In that bleffed world the holy foul shall not only rest from its labours, but be fully refreshed after its labours are over.

THE happiness of the saints after death is not merely negative; it does not consist only in a freedom from all evil; but there is a post-

tive part of it also, which includes the posfeffion and enjoyment of all good things a nothing will be wanting that can contribute to our happiness: fulness of joy; a crown of life and glory; rivers of pleasure; a kingdom that cannot be shaken; an inheritance incorruptible, undefiled, and that fadeth not away: these and such like metaphors, the they include very sublime and lofty ideas, and represent formething very lovely, and defitable; yet are all but low images to let forth the exalted glories of the heavenly state; which are indeed inconceivable-the company, the enjoyments, the work and bufiness, and every thing else belonging to heaven, all concur to revive and delight the new-arrived foul, and fill him with the most rapturous pleasure; joy beyond conception.

THUS advantageous is death to all good men! we may well call them bleffed, who have done with this world: no cros, no affliction can reach them in the state of rest, which they have now attained! all tears are wiped away from their eyes; they shall no more lament, " Oh my head! or oh my " heart!" neither fout nor body shall have any burden to complain of; the days of their mourning are ended: "Tears (fays an " excellent writer *) are the inheritance of

Bishop Hopkins.

our eyes; either our sufferings or our fine " call for them: the first possession which we take of the world is by crying, and there is nothing we hold by a furer tenure than our grief; and nothing can dry up co our tears but the dust of the grave." Well, but that will do it effectually; for all beyond is joy and blifs; there is no wet eye, no mourning heart among departed faints; all with them is pleasure, joy, and consummate felicity gent wol and lin one tov solds

THE three principal figures, whereby the facred scripture represents our condition in the present world, are travelling, labouring, and fighting; each of which does necessarily Suppose trouble and fatigue :--- death delivers the good man from all - Oh how pleafant is rest to a weary traveller, fatigued by the length of the way, and the badness of the roads! with what fatisfaction does he welcome rest at night; and oh how sweet his repose, when he is got to his journey's end! How comfortable is reft and refreshment to a labouring man, who has worked hard, and borne the heat and burden of the day! how does he welcome the approach of night, when he may lay him down to take his reft! and how agreeable is the end of a battle to a foldier, who has met with a thousand dangers, and bravely fought his way thro' all! with what furprifing pleasure does he find himself

himself safe, and welcomes the time, when he shall have a relaxation from the dreadful hardships of war and more especially so, if he has had such success against his enemies, as shall render war further needless, and prevent such dangers!

infinitely beyond what these saint emblents can represent it), to every departed faint; when he finds bimself safely arrived in his satter's house, removed fair above the reach of his most violent enemies; and in the enjoyment of all his heart can wish.—I pray Gon we may all of us know the full extent and degree of this satisfaction, by our own happy experience!—But I proceed to the fourth proposition included in the text, wish, or smooth as heart of all his satisfaction, by our

PROPING There is a particular lot, in the which good men shall stand at last; which good men shall stand at last; the shall sh

has he devices meaning of which is this:

At the end of the world, the final confurnmention of all things, when days shall

to be ended, and time shall be no more;

when the prefent lystem of nature shall

to be taken to pieces; and this world, with

Heally its appurtenances, shall be burnt not 15 then thou fhalt fland in thy lot, i.e. have a place and fure abode in the heavenly world the lot affigned to thee by a grafricious Gon amongst his faithful fervants. when they shall be severally disposed of and Bu fettled in the manfions, the many manfions, "which are in our father's house above." Ar the end of time, Jefus, who once came into the world as our Redeemer, will come again and appear in glorious majefty under the character of Judge, all mankind, that ever lived on earth, shall then be conwened before his awful tribunal; death and the grave fall then give up their dead; those, who fleep in the duft of the earth, shall then awake and come forth, when the trumpet shall found, and a loud voice shall shake the earth, " Arise ye dead and come to judg-The rifen body shall then meet " ment. " its former dear companion the foul; and every man thus entire, shall appear before the judgment-feat of Christ An awful separation will then be made betwixt them that feared GOD, and them that feared him not; the wicked shall be flation'd at the left hand, and in the utmost distress shall tremble at their expected doom; calling to the rocks and to the mountains to fall upon them, or creepfing into the caves of the earth, in order (if possible) to escape the wrath of the lamb;

but

but all in vain- while the others, the faithful fervants of Gop shall stand in the judgment, shall be able with a holy confidence to look their judge in the face, and to give up their accounts with joy, and shall have their happy lot affigned to them among their fellow-faints in the heavenly regions : foul and body being then re-united, the whole man completed, shall stand, be fixed and established in perfect happiness, without any poffibility of change. The bleffed faint, at this last day, the day of the manifestation of the fons of GOD, being now fettled in the heavenly paradife, fiell go no more out " : his whole felf shall enjoy full happiness, to the highest degree of his capacities; and that, which renders it complete, is, his rest shall be continual without intermission, and confant without end. of robon ov

By using the term lot, allusion is made to the land of promise, the figure of the heavenly Canaan; as that was exactly marked out by lines into several lots; and each of the tribes of Israel was placed in its particular lot. Thus in our father's house above there are many mansions, resting or abiding places *;

into

^{*} Rev. iii. 12.

Moral: habitationes; Moral est habitandi locus. Grat. à uivo, quæ vox denotat permanere, aut constanter, immotus, fixus, in statione quadam certa manere. A very proper term therefore to be used for the beavenly inheritance, which is fixed and stable.

into which the faints shall be severally disposed according to the appointment of Gov: thou shall stand in the lot; in that part of the heavenly inheritance, which shall be added in heaven is the country, the home, thine inheritance; it is allotted to thee, and there shall thou have thine eternal abode:

Some have thought, that there are particular apartments or mansions in the hear venly world, allotted to the faints of Gon, agreeably to the characters they fuffained on earth; or the degrees of their fervice and ufefulness in this state of trial; or the several periods and ages in which they lived : accordingly they have found out some mansions for the Old Testament saints, and others for fuch as live under the Gofpel-dispensation: mansions for patriarchs; for prophets; for apostles; for martyrs and confessors; for private faints; and the like. - But nothing of this can be concluded with any certainty; 'tis mere doubtful speculation, and affecting to wife above what is written. It is sufficient for us to know, that every faint in heaven shall be completely bleffed, and be fixed by infinite wisdom in a bappy lot.

Not but that it is very probable, the manfions of the bleffed are diftinguished from one another; every faint shall stand in bis own

lot at the end of time, bis own proper apartment; but yet be capable of receiving an additional felicity from beholding the glory of the whole palace. And I make no doubt, but there are different degrees of glory in the heavenly apartments. St. Paul, no question, will be fixed in a lot of distinguished light and glory, far superior to the mansion of a private christian. Distinguished piety, and usefulness on earth will meet with a distinguished reward in heaven: God will not overlook or pass by any of the faithful fervices of his people, none of their labour of love shall be forgotten; it shall all be suitably rewarded at the refurrection of the just. -This difference, or distinction of glory and happiness in the blessed saints, is sufficiently hinted to us in the parable of the talents "; and Sti Paul declares the fame in that remarks able passage, there is one glory of the funand another glory of the moon, and another glory of the stars; for one star differeth from another flar in glory ; fo also is the refurrecy tion of the dead ... by Christ the gidge of all,

THU s under these two last propositions, we have a comprehensive representation of the good man's happy circumstances in his next state of existence: namely, "im-" mediately upon his leaving this world, nadwell ; and after & ding obtained heend

Matt. xxv. and Luke xix and on 10 4

o 1 Cor. xv. 41, 42.

" when the union of foul and body is broken; " the body is laid to rest and sleep in the quiet grave, the foul afcends to Go b, and " is advanced to a state of pure and un mingled pleasures in paradife; "directly paffes into glory, and upon his entrance into the heavenly world, the is faint commences happy, and has the full " affurance of perfect glory : but the coro-" nation, the confummate felicity is deferr'd " till the great refurrection-day, at the end of the world; then the body drall " awake and rife out of the grave refreshed, " and unspeakably improved, and shall be rejoined to its former dear companion the foul; and both together in everlasting union shall be fixed in a state of confum-" mate bliss at the right hand of Go D in his " heavenly kingdom." Then shall the crowns of all Gon's faints be placed upon their heads, and their joy be made perfect: they shall then enter upon their full reward, having been openly acknowledged and owned by Christ the judge of all, as his faithful disciples and friends .- The great Dr. Bates, in his elegant manner, illustrates this by a comparison; I will borrow his words; " A \$ " the Roman generals (fays he) after a comthe plete conquest first entered the city priwately; and after having obtained licence of the senate, made their triumphant entry,

" with

their extinction, they do not ceale to be; it awful Q do T.A. Q. L.L. P. P. L. P. P. A. f.

how furprifing and overwhalming to some ore

- 1. Do good men die at the pleasure of Go D; does he fix the time, and bid them go their way, when he fees fit : how quieta ing and supporting is this confideration both to themselves when dying, and to surviving friends, after their death This is indeed a grand fupport of good men in the views of sa ternity; this reconciles them to the thoughts of death, and makes them willing to depart; it is the voice of their beloved bidding them go their way, and calling them home to himfelf ---- And let ine add, this confideration should also support furviving relatives and friends under fuch awful dispensations. My husband, my father, my minister, my useful and valuable brother and friend is gone bis

fecting stroke! but it is Go D has done it:
the sovereign Lord of all, the wise, the good,
the righteous Go D: let us then be dumb,
and not open our mouths by way of complaint
or murmur; let us, with Aaron, hold our
peace: or, with a becoming submission of
soul, let us at least sigh out; "the will of
"the Lord be done; it is the Lord, let him
"do what seemeth good in his sight."

2. Do good men exist in another state. after they have done with this world, and are gone away from it for ever? death is not their extinction, they do not cease to be; this awful truth should teach us all to consider ourselves at present in a state of trial, as candidates for heaven, and bound for another state of existence: and in consequence hereof we should pass the time of our sojourning on earth in fear, and be seriously careful to provide well for another world, and to make fure work for eternity. If I am hastning apace to death, and must exist in another state after death, surely in point of prudence, and as a friend to myself, I will make the best provision I can against this important feafon, that when my foul shall quit its prefent tabernacle, I may be received into manfions of blifs, to dwell in the presence ofthat GoD, who is the father of my spirit, and the only possible happiness of my reasonable

able and immortal foul: and to be with CHRIST, which is far better, than any circumstance, or situation in the present life can possibly be.

3.1 Do good men at death enter into reft ? and shall their happiness be completed in foul and body at the end of time? what an influence should this most comfortable doctrine have upon us; both to direct our conduct, and to support our spirits!

§. I. To direct our conduct; in fuch particulars as thefe, viz.

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1. WE should labour with our utmost diligence to secure the character of good christians. The name will not suffice; the thing will be required: we must be good at beart; and good in life, christians in deed and in truth, as well as in name and outward profession; or else we shall fall short of the rest and happi-

ness, we have been hearing of.

2. W B should pity the impenitent and wicked; for they have neither lot nor portion in all this matter; and our pity should put us upon doing all we can to recover them to a found mind, and bring them back to Gop. Let ministers especially, whose business it is to watch for fouls, take heed to this. And oh what joy will it be to us at last to meet any fuch, as through the bleffing of

hito the way of life! May we have many flich, as feals to our ministry, who shall be the crown of our rejoicing at the great day, and who will have cause to bless Go p for us to all eternity!

j. WE mould abate our fondness for the prefent world, fince we cannot be streft till we have done with it. What a vain, vex atious world is this! what a bleffed flate of rest do we expect hereafter; how preposterous to set our affections, or to seek a rest here; we should even wish to be gone!

4. We should be animated in the christian warfare, by the alfured expectation of a Blessed reward in a state of rest and happiness, when our warfare is ended. The reward at last will pay for all. Nothing fare is too much to be done or borne in the service of so good a master; who will abundantly reward us, not only beyond our defects, but also sar beyond our defects, but also sar beyond our bopes; the rest and happiness of heaven surpasses our most raised expectations; we cannot at present conceive what it is.

5. We should take all possible methods to discover the gratitude of our minds, and our fense of obligation to Gop for the abundant care he takes of us, and the noble provision he has made for our future eternal happiness,

happiness, when we shall bid farewel to the present world.

- §. II. This doctrine of the faints rest and happiness after death, is calculated to administer strong consolation to all good men, in every circumstance and season, when comfort is most desirable. As for instance,
- 1. UNDER all the troubles and vexations of the present world. Look forward, christian, to death; that will give thee a full deliverance from all evil. A good man can fee to the end of all his forrows: he drops them all with his body. Whatever troubles wicked men meet with in life, they are but the beginning of their forrows; fomething infinitely worse shall be their lot and the portion of their cup hereafter: but the child of GoD fees nothing beyond death, but eafe, peace, and joy. " Let my troubles be ever fo " fharp, bleffed be Gon they cannot be long; " a few years more will put a period to my " life, and then farewell forrows for ever," A good old man, now with Go p*, when the civil wars began in England, and the most bloody tragedies were acted, comforted himfelf with this; " Well, I'll go home and die, " and be out of the reach of all:" and it is

O 2. WHAT apleating view does this give as of death ! and how should it reconcile good men to the thoughts of it !- The reafon, why death appears fo terrible to fome good men, is, because they look altogether at the dark fide of it; they think of it, as the separation of foul and body; the dissolution of the earthly tabernacle, and the introduction of the spirit into an awful eternity; and how it will fare with them there they know 1 1. Ded.

not:

not: they have their doubts and fears, left after all they should miscarry and fall short. - Whereas, when we have once sufficient reason to conclude, that we are the people of Gop, we should then habituate our minds to fuch representations of death, as would effectually disarm it of its terrors. Let us then think of it, as a messenger sent by Gop to introduce us into a state of rest. If we are true christians, and die in the Lord, the language of God when he bids us die, is only this: "Go thou thy way, for thou shalt rest; " thou hast been harraffed, perplexed and " encumbered long enough, go now and be " at ease for ever."—And is there any thing shocking, or affrighting in all this! with what placid composure, and divine joy might a good christian in this situation leave the world and die!

3. This view of death affords comfort under the loss of our pious friends departed. They are at rest, perfectly delivered from all the troubles of this world; the pains of body, the anxiety of mind, the cares and vexations of life, which lately bore hard upon them, are ceased for ever: and indeed, tho we cannot but be sensible of our own loss by their remove, yet we should rather congratulate and rejoice in the rich, the immediate, and the eternal advantage, which they reap by death:—and let us please ourselves with E 2

You will now, I suppose, think it high time, that I should say something particularly in reference to Mr. BUSHNELL, our dear friend, whose death has occasioned this discourse.

THE theme is so very tender and affecting to me, that I scarce know how to express myself upon the sad occasion; none but God knows how great a share I bear in the affliction and forrow of this day. I can truly fay, I am distressed for thee, my brother. The feveral circumstances of the case are so moving and afflicting, that I fear we must look upon his death, as a token of Gon's displeafure: fo good, fo able, fo useful a minister fnatched away from us at once ! " Lord, " what wilt thou have us to do? show us " wherefore thou thus contendest with us! " let us hear the rod, and who hath ap-" pointed it: oh would to Gop, we might get benefit by his death; when we Thall " enjoy the advantage of his life no more !-He is gone bis way, to his eternal rest; and we shall see his face, and hear his voice no more!

HE was the son of Mr. William Bushnell, a considerable trader at Walling ford in Berkshire, born on March 3, 1690. From early life

life he discovered a serious turn of mind to religion; and with his father's approbation, directed his thoughts and views to the ministry, to which he had a natural and strong inclination. He finished his grammar learning at the age of fixteen, under the instruction of the reverend Mr. Clark of Beconsfield: from hence he was removed to Bridgwater, for academical learning; and was here educated for the ministry, and completed his studies, under the care of the excellent Mr. More; who was so happy as to furnish the church of Christ with many useful ministers: fuch as have been ornaments to their character and profession, and done worthily in their day, besides our deceased friend: - tho' I will be bold to fay, he could not be exceeded by any of them in a zeal for his great master's service, and a hearty concern for the welfare of precious fouls: - many of them are already fallen afleep; but others have still a standing in their Lord's vineyard: and may God prolong their lives and ufefulness for many years!

Upon this facred work he early entered ; and was foon fettled at Potterspury in Northamptonshire. God greatly owned his pious and unwearied labours; gave him many seals to his ministry; and he was no small bleffing in that place, and to all the neighbourhood:

About the age of twenty-one.

(B)

hood: here he raised a large auditory, but of the poorer fort; and continued with them for eighteen years, till he had in a manner expended his own patrimony and substance; tho' in that time he was invited to a more wealthy congregation in the city of Briffol.

A T length he thought it necessary to remove; and accepted an invitation to a congregation at Andover in Hants: here he continued but a little time *; and apprehending he might be more useful elsewhere, he left them, and went to Nailsworth in Gloucestershire; where he continued till January last; when agreeably to your invitation he came, and fettled amongst us-fettled did I fay? a short settlement truly! it should rather be faid, he came and paid us a baffy visit, and is removed for ever.

AFTER Mr. Bushnell had frequently fignified to me his defire, that I would affift him in a remove to fome other fituation : where he might be as useful, and more comfortable, than in the place where he then was: I must confess, I was very desirous to bring him among you here; and did in the strongest terms recommend him to your choice: and tho' Gop has removed him foon; yet he has been with us fo long, as fully to convince me, that I was not mistaken in my opinion of him; fo long, as to give a full specimen of his great talents and ministerial * About two or three years.

abilities; the pleasing prognosticks, I hoped of his eminent usefulness for years to come It was a vast satisfaction, I own, to myself. to fee how generally acceptable he was to you; how he was growing daily in your esteem, and infensibly conciliated your regards: and I take this opportunity publickly to thank you my friends, for every instance of honour and respect you showed him. Nothing less indeed could be expected; for so good and pious, so diligent and worthy a minister, can scarce possibly fail of being esteemed and beloved by all, who have a tafte for ferious godliness, wherever his lot is cast - if any could treat so excellent a fervant of Christ with neglect and contempt. let their own severe reflections be their punishment, now he is dead and gone: did I know of any fuch in this fociety, I would not scruple to tell them, they were not worthy of so valuable a bleffing .- And truly, I with this is not, in some measure, the case; He was too good for us, and Go p in judgment has taken him from us.

HE was a serious christian; a faithful minister; his heart was in his work; his own spirit was deeply affected with the great truths of the gospel; and with what earnest, ness and zeal, did he endeavour to press them home upon the hearts of his hearers! - You will many of you remember (I am בחונסחדוכו

Vizz bist 1

I shall never forget) with what fervour he administered the Lord's supper here the last facrament-day; - the only time, he ever performed that exercise amongst us !- his flowing tears discovered how much, how tenderly his own heart was impressed upon the folemn occasion, and helped to melt ours: and I may ask, as one of the disciples did the other, when in the way to Emmaus, they had met with Christ; did not our beart burn within us, while he talked with us P, of the love of Christ, and enlarged upon our unspeakable obligations to our dear redeemer? I am fure it afforded me pleasure to see the serioufness, which appeared in every countenance at that time.

HE had a great fluency and copiousness in prayer; a happy talent of chusing subjects, that were striking; and his composures were always very correct and judicious, admirably adapted to reach the conscience; - and delivered with such a pathos. fuch feriousness and gravity, that made a full amends for a little tone, which he fometimes had, towards the conclusion of a fentence: but if it had been abundantly more, it would never have been an objection to hinder his usefulness with any, but such as regard the air and manner with which a discourse is pronounced, more than the folid and awful matter which it contains: -- and truly, let our discourses

discourses be what they will, there is very little likelihooth of doing much good to perfere the disposed of they come to hear, but not to understand, or to profit by what they hear; if their cars are tickled for a while, they have their defire (or, as our Saviour lays, their reward, all they aim at) the theart remains as thard, as unimpressed, as unacceptainted with the great things of G o D as ever.

HE had a great fund of knowledge, both divine and human; a large acquaintance with history, and other parts of learning By this means his conversation was very entertaining and instructive, and he would always aim at making his visits useful, by taking occasion to lay fornething for Gon and religion. And I remember well, when I first opened to him my defign of recommending him to your choice, he alked whether you were a people, that would allow him to viffe you, as a minister; for he would never come among any people, who would not admit of be pleased with visits of that kind. - Upon the whole, to speak my mind freely w " more able, willing, ferious, laborious " minister I do not know wand if I may be allowed to use the words of St. Paul, in reference to his beloved Timothy (I affure you they express the fentiment of my very (lug) of some is, and I shma dof Ireland.

foul) " I have no man like minded, who will an aturally care for your state?

A s, to his religious principles: after an impartial and careful examination of the controversy, he chose to take his lot with the Protestant Dissenters; and was always a determined advocate for moderate nonconformity, as being in his opinion founded upon the two grand pillars of the reformation, viz. " the liberty of private judgment," and "the perfection of the scriptures." This being his way of thinking, like an honest man he flood firmly to it; nor could he be tempted by the offers made him of preferment, in case he would conform; and the advantageous prospects he had in being related to a bishop in the established church *; who valued him for his piety, and would have provided well for him. and of boa

HE did not like to distinguish himself by any of the lesser names, which divide the christian church wand kept clear of the extremes of all parties.

As to his political principles: he was firmly attach'd to his Majesty King George, and his illustrious family. With great satisfaction he saw the Protestant succession in

reference to his belowed

⁹ Philip. ii. 20.

The Right Reverend Dr. Hugh Boulter, Arch-bishop of Armagh, and Primate of Ireland.

the illustrious house of Hanover take place in the person of the late King GEORGE the First of blessed memory; when the vilest attempts had been made to fet it afide, and fuch attempts as could not have failed of fuecefs, had not Gop himfelf, to the furnise of all the world, in the very critical juncture defeated them .- He was ever Rudions las a faithful subject to his king, and friend to his country) to contribute all he could to the ease and support of the administration; especially by checking in others, and not allowing in himfelf, that forward humour of arraigning publick measures; and that freedom of centuring and vilifying our governors, which has been the foundalous reproach of the present age; and by which it is plain, the hands and the bearts of our common cnemies have been frengthened and encouraged to fuch a degree, las might have been of fatal consequence to these nations, had not our GoD, who is the Go D of fatvation; blafted their deligns, and feafonably appeared for us. - That malignant spirit, so contrary to christian rules, is now I think considerably abated; and may it never more be found among any but fuch only, as are the avowed enemies of our king and our country la As for fuch, we can scarce expect their entry or malice malice will cease; but Go D, I trust, will always restrain their power.

I F we view our deceased friend in more private life: we shall find a forrowful widow mourning the loss of an affectionate husband and a faithful friend. May her maker be her bufband, the Lord of bofts is bis name ! - his children also have reason to lament the loss of a most loving and tender father i and they will allow me on this fad occasion to admonth them to recollect his pious infructions, his earnest and importunate advice in reference to their eternal concerns, and to bear in mind the good example he has fet them; that they may meet him hereafter at the bar of Christ with joy, and not with forrow -- He has not left his family the great things of the world no, far from it ! his circumstances were much reduced and low; but let me tell them, "He has left you Go D's bleffing; tho he is dead, " Gon, I trust, shall be with you; to guide your ways, and to supply your wants. " Depend upon it, God will provide! if you feek and ferve him, he will not leave nor forfake you! he will raife you up friends I doubt not, beyond your expectation; and I hope Mr. Bushnell's late remove to this place will appear to be a kind pro-" vidence malice

" vidence to his family, in this very raour plous friends already departed,". Bed ?!

I repleased Gon frequently to afflict him with very harp pains; he bore them with great patience and fubmission; never murmured against God, nor thought the

worfe of him upon this account.

In his last illness, which came upon him with refiftless force like a mighty torrent, he discovered an entire refignation to the will of GoD; he had the sentence of death within himself; and as he told me, " was very willing to die, if GoD faw fit; " I trust, said he, I have served God sin-" cerely and faithfully, and I thank him, I " can look forward with good hope thro' " grace, to a better state" - And, as I am informed, fome of the last words he uttered were, " I am refigned, I am refigned, a-" men, and amen." And thus he closed life; the days of his mourning are now ended, Gop has fent him to rest. Let us comfort one another with these words!

AND God of his infinite mercy grant, that we may all improve this alarm of providence to the greatest diligence in preparing for our own change: that as our deceased frriend is now, we trust, in the paradise of God, with Christ the Saviour of men, we 46 The Saint difmife'd from earth, &c.

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in due time may meet him and the rest of our pious friends already departed, in that blessed state, and so may be for ever with the Lord; and stand in the happy lot of God's children in the end of the days.

dement with a pon this second.

If y his late illness, which came upon him with realfless of the a mighty tortant, he discovered the yill or Gan, it is a the featenet of the yill or Gan, it is a the featenet of destin within himself geometric in Gan fav himself years of the cord and the featenet of the days of the committee of the

And Gon of his addition mercy grant, that we may all improve this alarm of providence to the greatest difference in preparing for our own change; that as our described friend is now, we traff, in the paradic of Richard Rom Y H Christ the Laviour of math, we

HYMN.

T.

GOOD men, oppress'd with cares and [pains, How they complain and figh! Weary of life, they only wait Their Master's leave to die.

II.

God fees their tears, and hears their moans, And bids them go to reft: They go their way, their forrows end; And they are fully bleft.

III.

Happy our friends, who've shot the gulf, And got within the vail; Their days of mourning ended are, Their joys shall never fail.

IV.

Jesus! and when shall that dear day, That blessed hour appear; When I shall leave this vexing world, And dwell amongst them there!

V.

Prepare me, Lord, for thy right hand;
Then come the bappy bour,
When I shall reach my beav'nly home,
Nor fin nor forrow more!

FINIS.

H Y M N.

I

How they complain and figh!
Weary of life, they only wair
Their Mafter's leave to die,

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Gop fees the was and five their morns,
And bic MV BZVM
They go the Way TIN Boys end;
And the MV JIN

Happy our friends, who've friotthe gulf,
And rot within the yail;
Their days of mounting ended are,
Their joys faall never fail.

Jefus! and when fhall that dear day,
That bleffed hour appear;
When I fhall leave this vexing world,
And dwell among them there!

V.

Prepare me, Lord, for thy right hand;
Then come the bappy hour,
When I shall reach my having home,
Nor fin nor forma more!

FINIS.

